LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
3 3298 00262 3214

annual report

Northern Development Commission
2000 - 2001

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4
SEP 4 2001

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

British Columbia. Northern Development Commission.

Annual report. - - 1st (July 17, 1998/July 16, 1999)-

Annual.

Title from cover.

First report covers period from July 17, 1998 to July 16, 1999.

ISSN 1488-8394 = British Columbia. Northern Development Commission

1. British Columbia. Northern Development Commission - Periodicals. 2. British Columbia, Northern - Economic conditions - 1945- -Periodicals.
3. British Columbia, Northern - Economic policy- Periodicals. I. Title.

HC117.B7B74 1999 354.2'794'0971105 C99-960366-3

contents

table of contents

Minister's Letter 7

Commissioner's Letter 9

Mission Statement 11

Participation 13

Consultations 16

- Economic Development Forum Meetings
- Northeast Region
- North Central Region
- Northwest Region

Northern Development Commission • Community Support

- Agriculture and Fisheries 19
- Community Development 21
- Economic Development 22
- Energy and Minerals 28
- Forestry 31
- Health and Education 32
- Transportation and Technology 33
- Tourism Development and Marketing 34

Financial Record 37

Grants 38

Contribution Agreements 39

Contracts 40

Conferences 41

Contact Details 42

101-06891/

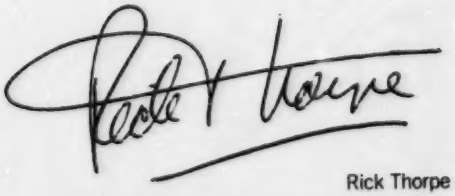
letter

minister's letter

Honourable Garde Gardom
Lieutenant-Governor
Province of British Columbia

May It Please Your Honour:

I am respectfully submitting the Annual Report for the Northern Development Commission for the last full fiscal year of the previous administration ending March 31, 2001, fulfilling my obligation as the current Minister responsible.



Rick Thorpe
Minister of Competition, Science and Enterprise

letter commissioner's letter

This really has been a watershed year for the Northern Development Commission. Our previous work concentrated on moving through a start-up phase to establishing ourselves within the community. For the period covered in this report, through partnerships with a wide range of community stakeholders, we have managed to respond to community needs in ways that provide lasting benefits to the North. There will always be community issues that require us to be responsive, and it is right that we take action on those issues. At the same time I am heartened by the fact that we are also now working proactively, both in the North and with Victoria, to provide leadership on issues that are important to northerners.

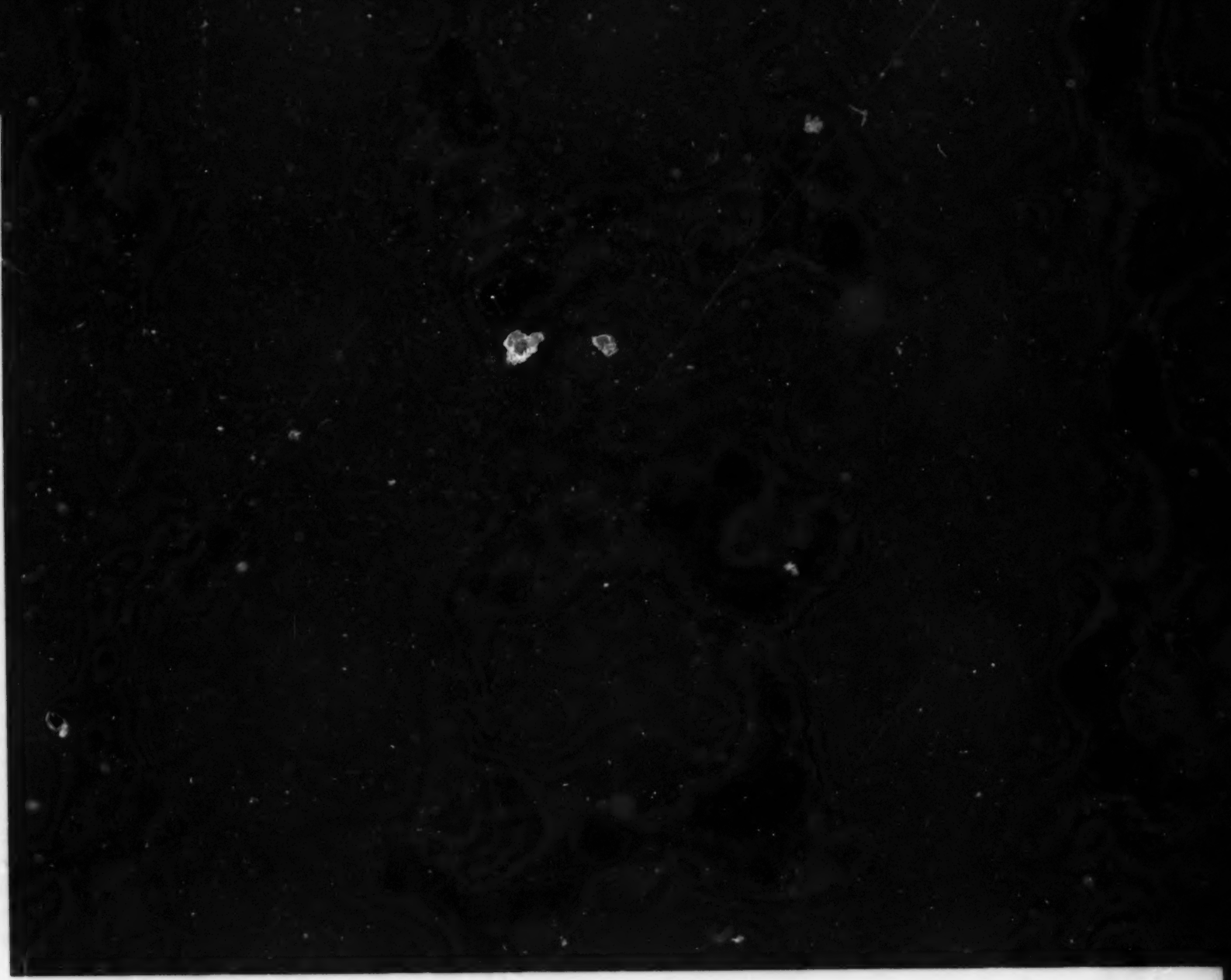
I'm really pleased with the way in which the commission has been able work with communities at the local level. In particular, I'm increasingly convinced that the bottom-up approach we have taken has been the right approach – we focus on where we are needed and we take our direction from the North.

The Northern Development Commission has established good working relationships and effective partnerships with many ministries and agencies within the provincial government. The commission has also helped to elevate the profile of northern B.C. on the national stage. I was pleased to participate in the inaugural Northern Economic Development Ministers' Conference in Labrador last fall. My staff and I have also participated on issues involving Alberta, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alaska. We have also assisted with the development of trade ties between northern B.C. and Japan.

In the North, we clearly have an "old" economy as part of history, and to a large extent, providing a significant level of base economic activity in the region today. And it is also true that we have a "new" economy in the North – one that is evolving around knowledge-based products and services. The exciting part is that the new economy doesn't have to come at the expense of the old economy. I see incredible innovation and creativity in so-called "old" economy sectors, and I see a pioneering spirit in the development of new economy initiatives in the North. What I see happening is really one new economy, one that includes traditional resource-based industries and new technologies, resource use and thinking.

The Northern Development Commission will continue to work with communities in the North, celebrating their successes, and working diligently with them to meet new challenges. There are high profile issues that will continue to challenge us, but rest assured, we will embrace all northern economic development concerns with equal vigour.

John Backhouse
Northern Development Commissioner



our mission

mission statement

Our Mission

To advocate for economic development and job creation in northern British Columbia by:

- Supporting community-led initiatives
- Promoting the profile of the North
- Encouraging private sector investment
- Fostering co-operative working relationships

participation

The Northern Development Commission works with the following business and community groups to develop strategies and explore opportunities for improvement in northern B.C.

B.C. Knowledge Development Fund

- The B.C. Knowledge Development Fund focuses on creating and enhancing research infrastructure in order to promote economic development within the province.
- The commissioner sits on the external review committee and ensures that northern interests are taken into account when funding decisions are made.

Canadian Rural Partnership

- The Northern Development Commission has participated actively in the B.C. Rural Team for the past two years.
- The B.C. rural team is a partnership between the federal and provincial governments designed to explore opportunities for improving services to rural residents.

Northern Inter-agency Management Committees (IAMC)

- The Northern Development Commission is a member on two northern IAMCs and plays an advisory role to ensure that land use strategies complement other economic development initiatives.

North Central Municipal Association (NCMA)

- The NCMA is a consortium of municipalities from central and northern British Columbia.
- NCMA and the Northern Development Commission continue to work collaboratively since entering into a formal protocol agreement of recognition in May 1999.

Northern B.C. • Japan Investment Forum

- The initial forum was intended to establish links between Japan and government, business and communities in the North.
- Follow-up meetings have occurred and have led to potential opportunities for the North.

Northwest Corridor Development Corporation

- The Northern Development Commissioner participates in planning for the economic potential of road, rail, air, pipeline, telecommunications and marine facilities for the corridor.

Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM)

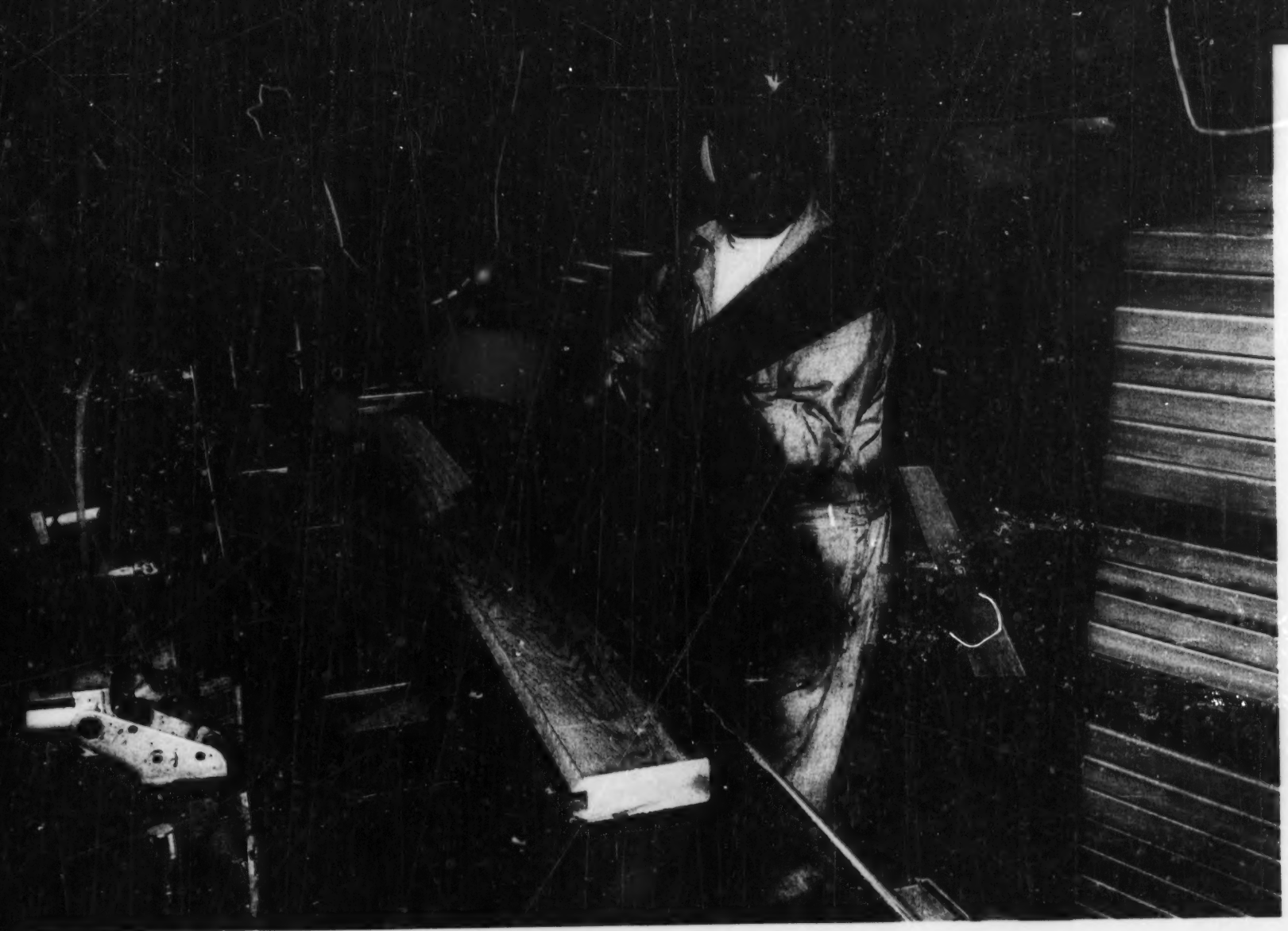
- The Northern Development Commissioner liaises with UBCM to raise the profile of northern issues at the request of member municipalities.
- UBCM adopts policy resolutions to advance the interests of British Columbia municipalities.

Yellowhead Highway Association

- The Northern Development Commissioner supports the Yellowhead Highway Association and participates in its annual conference.
- The association focuses on developing the full potential of the Trans-Canada Yellowhead highway corridor.

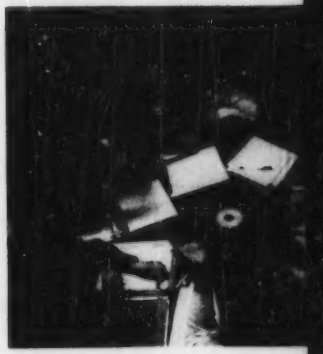
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

- The Northern Development Commission liaises with the FCM informally on community issues and has established dialogue on the role of the commission with respect to communities in the North.
- Dialogue with FCM has helped to establish linkages with other Canadian organizations and communities with similar interests.



consultations

Economic Development Forums



The commission hosts six regional forums each year, two in each region, usually in February and September. This year, the spring forums were postponed until April 2001 in favor of a region-wide northern forum.

The forums provide the opportunity for local economic development practitioners to update each other on issues in their area and to learn from each other. This sharing and networking is an important part of the forums. The forums also provide the important opportunity for the commissioner to hear first hand about challenges and opportunities in each region, as well as to provide feedback to participants on policy directions. Information shared at the forums contributes to the development and focus of the commission's business plan. The forums also include an educational component, which provide information on sector specific initiatives delivered by guest speakers.

Northeast Region

- The Northeast forum was held in Fort Nelson on Sept. 12, 2000.
- The roundtable discussion was useful for the commissioner and his staff, as well as the participants. In addition, regional issues were identified.
- Presentations including topics covering timber tenures and licences, value added wood products, and community economic development programs.

North Central Region

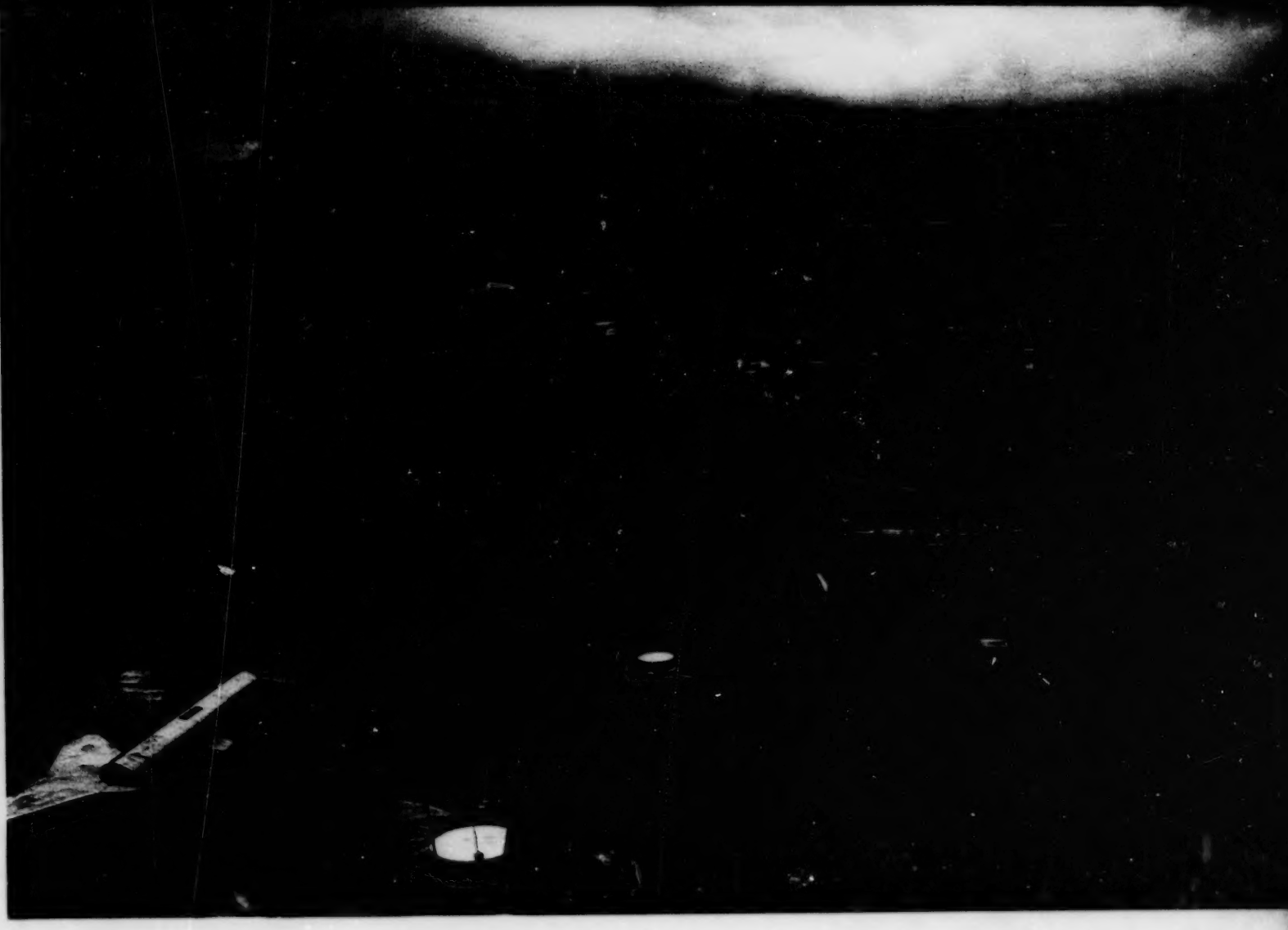
- The North Central forum was held in Burns Lake on Sept. 21, 2000.
- Participants discussed community issues and challenges.
- The forum included presentations on topics such as herb production and art marketing; additional presentations were made on assistance programs for the value added industry as well as a presentation from the community futures program.

Northwest Region

- The Northwest forum was held in Kitimat on Sept. 19, 2000.
- The forum included updates from all communities to identify issues.
- There were also presentations on offshore oil and gas exploration as well as a presentation on the community enterprises program.

Other Consultation

Other consultation included networking at local conferences, meeting with Mayors, Chiefs, councillors and regional directors, and on-going contact with regional economic development practitioners by the commissioner and his staff.



community support

northern development commission

agriculture and fisheries

Agriculture and Wildlife Symposium

- The Peace River Regional District's wildlife committee is trying to address the impacts of wildlife on agricultural operations, and identify options to address solutions.
- The symposium's goal was to pull together parties from other sectors also dealing with these conflicts including various government agencies, B.C. Wildlife Federation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of this event.

Agriculture Symposium

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food partnered with the Northern Development Commission to present the Northern Agriculture Symposium in Prince George in October 2000.
- Representatives from all aspects of the agriculture and agri-food sector including producing, marketing, transportation, and finance, attended the event.
- The event was used to identify issues facing the agri-food sector and to identify possible solutions.

Sustainable Agriculture Symposium

- The Upper Skeena Development Centre, with assistance from the Northern Development Commission, hosted a sustainable agricultural symposium in the Hazelton area in the spring of 2001 to discuss alternative opportunities to present resource use and extraction.
- The Gitxsen village of Gitsegukla has been at the leading edge of development with their hemp fibre research project, and were a leading contributor to the conference. The results of the conference was an agreement to create a task force to pursue funding which would identify major opportunities and begin a process of developing a sustainable agricultural region in the Upper Skeena Valley.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of this event.

Northern Quality Seafood Expo 2000 Conference

- The North Coast Seafood Development Office has held a seafood expo for the past three years. The main goal of the expo is to raise the level of awareness of northern seafood products in the local region, as well as develop new markets for the products in other parts of B.C.
- The expo has been gaining popularity and size each year. In the year 2000 the seafood office had representatives providing samples and marketing information from salmon, bi-valve, and ground fish sectors of the seafood industry.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding the conference, as well as being a participant. This event has been a catalyst for opportunity for northern seafood products.

FOODEX 2001

- As a result of the Japanese Business Tour, which was organized by the Northern Development Commission in June 2000, the North Coast Seafood Development Office was invited to attend FOODEX 2001 in Japan.
- This is the largest food and beverage show in Asia and attract almost 100,000 visitors each year. Booth space was kindly donated by the Pacific Western Brewing Company of Prince George.
- The Northern Development Commission along with the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District, and industry organizations, assisted with funding northern participation at FOODEX 2001.
- The event provided an excellent opportunity to show off the value-added products being created with North Coast seafood. By all accounts the efforts of the participants was an unqualified success, and contacts are still being made between buyers and the British Columbia processors who attended.

community development

Cariboo Economic Action Forum

- The Cariboo Economic Action Forum (CEAF) is a non-profit society that conducts regional economic development work in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. CEAF hosts an annual stakeholders meeting focussing on economic development.
- Participants include municipal and first nations leaders, as well as representatives from business, youth, community organizations and the provincial and federal government.
- The commission assisted with forum costs and also participated in the event.

Coastal Communities Network (CCN) • Annual Conventions

- The Coastal Communities Network 8th annual convention was held in May 2000. The CCN has been a very important forum for communities to discuss issues and deal with matters of common interest to all coastal groups.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of this event and the commissioner presented on one of the subject panels.
- Of particular interest was the coastal perspective brought from communities outside of British Columbia.
- The Northern Development Commission provided financial support for the Coastal Communities Network 9th annual convention which was held at the end of March 2001.
- The conference as always, had an excellent array of speakers and panels. The most timely and informative was the panel dealing with the softwood lumber agreement with the U.S., which was due to expire on Mar. 31, 2001.
- The Coastal Communities Conference continues to be an important venue for information and interaction on relevant coastal issues.

Rural Communities, Rural Vision Conference

- The B.C. Rural Team hosted Rural Communities, Rural Vision in Vernon in April 2001. The conference was aimed at government and rural citizens working together to find solutions to rural issues.
- The Northern Development Commission provided funding assistance for event planning for this conference.

Feasibility Study for the Establishment of an International Bakery

- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the costs of developing a feasibility study for an international bakery, which will be run as a co-operative.
- This project is designed to create employment for immigrant women who do not have regular access to employment due to language and cultural barriers.
- The special focus of this new business will be to serve ethnic tastes and dietary proscriptions. The College of New Caledonia has agreed to provide direction and assistance as needed to establish the co-operative bakery.

economic development

City of Prince Rupert – Mayor and Council's Business Development Summit

- The new Mayor of Prince Rupert organized a summit to discuss the economic opportunities and issues facing the City of Prince Rupert.
- The event lasted three days and brought together community leaders from both the city and First Nations' communities. It has stimulated discussion and generated new economic development options that the city and the surrounding area are pursuing.
- The Northern Development Commission supported this endeavour through participation and monetary assistance.

Northern Economic Development Conference • Burns Lake

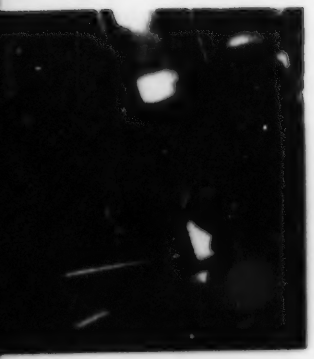
- The Northern Development Commission contributed towards mounting an economic development workshop to explore possibilities for alleviating native unemployment in the Burns Lake area.
- The conference explored viable business ventures and also offered education about business development expertise.

Gingolx Village Government • Study to develop the harbour front area.

- The Village of Gingolx [formerly Kincolith] received funding support from the Northern Development Commission to complete an opportunities' evaluation for the harbour area at their community.
- Information generated by the study was used to access funds from the federal Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (CEAI) that will create a number of business ventures in the harbour area for the community.
- This development is seen as an important community development with the completion of the Kincolith Road now scheduled for late 2002.

Feasibility Study for Brewery Bay Marina

- The Atlin Brewery Bay Marine Association is comprised of community members in Atlin and Taku who were looking to improve the marine business activity on Atlin Lake.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding for this study that resulted in the approval of an application from CEAI to expand and improve the marina facility and increase the docking capacity for lake tour boats. It is expected that this project will be completed by spring 2002.



Saik'uz Legacy Homes • Trade Show Assistance

- Saik'uz Legacy Homes is a wholly owned enterprise of the Saik'uz First Nation and manufactures log homes for export.
- The Northern Development Commission contributed funding towards marketing support for Saik'uz Legacy Homes at a log-home industry trade show in Oregon in May 2000.
- The western United States has a strong market for log homes and attending the show raised the profile of Saik'uz Legacy Homes significantly.

Prince George Market Analysis Study

- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of this study to determine characteristics of the Prince George regional economy.
- The results are being used to plan strategic development, recruitment of labour force and in attracting new industrial sectors. Business-to-Business opportunities, growth potential and niche markets are opportunities available for exploitation.

Prince George Downtown Core Marketing Study

- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of a marketing study to assess the potential for the downtown core of the City of Prince George.

Japan Business Executive Tour

- The Northern Development Commissioner initiated discussions with senior Japanese executives in 1999 to develop an awareness of the potential trading opportunities with northern British Columbia.
- A result of these meetings was the invitation to tour the North, specifically Prince Rupert and Prince George. The Japanese Business Executives delegation kindly agreed to this opportunity and a two-day tour was organized of the two communities and funded in part by the commission.
- The communities proved to be excellent hosts and the delegation came away from the tour with a new understanding for the opportunities and the potential for the region.

Nadleh Whut'en Indian Band • Community Business Development Plan

- The commission provided funding assistance in the development of a series of business plan proposals. The band intends to develop their business based on the "log sort" concept.

Inventory of Services, Facilities and Skills in the Burns Lake Area

- The purpose of this project was to create an inventory of services, facilities and skills available for development in the Burns Lake area in order to increase market share and thereby stimulate economic diversification and expand local employment opportunities.
- The inventory also included surveying the needs and attitudes of tourists and business travellers. A third component examined the human resource base for the hospitality industry and determined levels of training required and projected future staffing requirements.
- The Northern Development Commission partnered in funding this project.

Study to Redevelop Ridley Island

- The City of Prince Rupert received a very serious blow to its economy with the announcement of the mine shut down at Tumbler Ridge resulting in decreased coal shipments through the Ridley Island facility.
- The Northern Development Commission contributed towards a study to identify alternatives to the present use for the building site.
- A consultants report suggests that there are excellent opportunities for the coal terminal, and the City of Prince Rupert along with the Prince Rupert Port Authority are now pursuing these options.

Business Plan • Takla Development Corporation

- The Northern Development Commission provided financial support towards developing a business plan to support employment development.
- Takla Development Corporation holds a timber-harvest tenure and is planning to begin operating it year-round.

Economic Development Strategic Plan • Chetwynd

- Faced with difficulties in its traditional industries, forestry and coal, the community of Chetwynd has recognized the need to diversify its economy, find alternative economic development strategies and to market the community for prospective investors.
- The Northern Development Commission partnered with the District of Chetwynd in a study to identify opportunities and possible strategies for development.
- The district has now hired an economic development officer and is in the process of implementing the new strategy.

Business Opportunities Study • North Peace Economic Development Commission

- The North Peace Economic Development Commission has undertaken a study to assess economic and competitiveness factors facing industry in the northeast.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding and expertise to develop terms of reference and recruit suitable consultants to prepare the report.

Marketing Strategy • Fort Nelson Region

- The Fort Nelson regional economic task force was established in May 1999, comprising an alliance of industry, the Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce, and local government.
- The task force has been working towards the establishment of the Fort Nelson region as a recognized entity in northeast British Columbia and to empower area industry to strategically market itself.
- The Northern Development Commission provided support for the development of a website, the creation of a marketing strategy and an industrial goods and services database for the Fort Nelson region.

Bottled Water Plant Study

- The Northern Development Commission supported the Taku Tlingit First Nation with a pre-feasibility study of glacial bottled water for market in southern Canadian and American locations.
- The study, completed in March 2001, indicates that there are opportunities for glacial bottled water, and the community has undertaken to take the next step in the analysis of this opportunity.

Redevelopment of City Website • Quesnel

- The Northern Development Commission contributed to a project to develop the City of Quesnel's website as a significant marketing tool for potential investors interested in doing business in the area.
- The new website will incorporate information from the City of Quesnel, its Economic Development Association and from North Cariboo Community Futures.

Branding the Peace Conference

- The purpose of the conference is to stimulate all sectors of the Peace economy by increasing community awareness and the commitment to developing an international brand of Peace goods.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding for a conference held on March 1- 3, 2001 in Dawson Creek which helped create an alliance of interested parties from the Peace region of B.C. and Alberta working toward the creation of a branding process.

Northern B.C. Film Guide

- The Northern Development Commission, in partnership with the Prince George Film Commission, contributed towards the cost of the northern film guide, in response to northern communities that wanted to be considered as film locations.
- The results of this work have already begun to show with a number of commercials in the North as well as Stewart being used as a setting for a major studio release that will be filming in the community this summer.

Cassiar Iskut Stikine LRMP • Economic Development Strategy

- The Cassiar Iskut Stikine Land Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process was a major resource planning initiative.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted the area communities of Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek and Iskut to create a strategy for regional economic development arising out of the LRMP.
- Challenges include the fact that the communities are spread out and part of the area involved in this review is not covered by any local or regional government entity.
- Key recommendations are the establishment of a permanent group that would take on the role of an economic development committee, and funding for core activities and strategy implementation.

LRMP Implementation Monitoring • Northern Land Use Institute

- The Omineca-Peace inter-agency management committee (IAMC) partnered with the Northern Land Use Institute at the University of Northern B.C. to assist with monitoring the implementation of LRMPs in the region.
- Funding from the Northern Development Commission contributed to advancing this project.

energy and minerals

Houston Co-generation Feasibility Study Project

- A feasibility study was conducted for a co-generation facility for the District of Houston. The potential benefit for a co-generation facility comes from the availability of wood waste and the potential for improving air quality in the Bulkley Valley.
- The purpose of the feasibility study was to determine the economic viability of a woodwaste-fired co-generation plant. In addition to providing input into the project, the commission partnered with BC Hydro, Canfor, Houston Forest Products and West Fraser Mills to contract the study.

Feasibility Study for a Community Energy System

- The City of Prince George responded to an initiative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Natural Resources Canada respecting feasibility studies on community energy systems.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of this study to explore the potential to obtain heat from biomass materials rather than continue incinerating them.
- If a co-generation and heat transfer plant can be created, about 30 new jobs will be created for the city.

B.C. Oil and Gas Week

- The City of Fort St. John, with assistance from numerous sponsors, including the Northern Development Commission, hosted Oil and Gas Week, May 24 - 27, 2000.
- Oil and gas development is a driving industry in northeast British Columbia. Oil and Gas Week provides an opportunity for anyone who is directly or indirectly involved in the oil and gas industry, presidents, CEO's, producers, operators, contractors, business leaders, as well as provincial, municipal and regional government leaders, to discuss the issues of interest to the oil and gas sector.
- The conference program focused on "Levelling the Playing Field". Panellists had the opportunity to address topics around exploration, production, gathering and processing, including issues relating to transportation, regulation and royalties.

Feasibility Study for a Woodwaste-Fired Electrical Energy Plant in Masset

- The Village of Masset has been actively investigating the opportunity of using waste wood to generate heat and electricity for the community. All electrical power on the north end of Graham Island is presently generated by diesel fuel. This is both expensive and subject to pollution issues.
- The Northern Development Commission partnered in a study to assess the opportunities for the use of waste wood from the Island to fire a heating and electrical system.
- The review concluded that the process was viable, and the community is pursuing funding to implement the project.

Feasibility Study on Generating Hydro-Electricity at Kenney Dam

- The Nechako Watershed Council with assistance from the Northern Development Commission retained a consultant to provide a report on the feasibility of generating hydro-electricity at Kenney Dam.
- The results of this study will be essential for making recommendations for an optimal flow regime, which will be achieved by balancing flows for water system development and flows for hydro-electric power generation.

University of Northern British Columbia • Oil and Gas Repository

- The Northern Development Commission has been involved in the design of a public process to discuss the offshore oil and gas moratorium. As part of this process it was recognized that there needed to be an accessible repository of information on the topic.
- The University of Northern British Columbia and the Northern Development Commission have partnered in creating this repository along with an operational website that is gaining in recognition and use.

Offshore Hydrocarbon Development Workshop

- The Maritime Awards Society of Canada held a workshop on offshore hydrocarbon development in October 2000 to clarify key issues in order to frame plans for a fruitful series of public forums in the future.
- The Northern Development Commission provided funding towards the facilitation costs of this workshop. In addition, the commissioner was one of the presenters at the event.

Workshop on Exploring the Future of Offshore Oil and Gas Development in B.C.

- Simon Fraser University sponsored a workshop on offshore oil and gas development in B.C. in which the commissioner participated as a panelist.
- The Northern Development Commission contributed to the costs of publishing the workshop proceedings.

Minerals North Conference

- The District of Tumbler Ridge hosted the 2000 Conference on May 16 - 18, 2000.
- Minerals North Conferences were initiated by the Smithers Exploration Group and are held each year in a different northern B.C. community.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of this event, which serves as an opportunity for industry stakeholders to meet and address issues of specific concern to the industry in northern B.C.

forestry

Peace Wood Works • 2000 Northern Wood Forum

- The Peace Northern Wood Forum 2000, held in Dawson Creek, had the objective of recognizing the range of businesses, jobs and economic activity, which can develop as a result of the utilization of local forest resources.
- This conference, co-sponsored by the Northern Development Commission, focused on the utilization of local tree species, including both hardwoods and softwoods.

Touch Wood 2001 • Quesnel

- The Touch Wood forum is an initiative which:
  - raises awareness of the growing importance of the value-added sector to local and regional economies;
  - investigates ways in which the education system and industry can develop co-operative approaches; and,
  - enhances the long-term employment prospects for local people, especially youth entering the workforce.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding for Touch Wood 2001.

health and education

RETAIN 2000 International Conference

- The commission assisted with funding RETAIN 2000, a conference aimed at improving the retention and graduation rates of indigenous peoples in higher education.

National Health Summit

- The City of Prince George and the North Central Municipal Association organized a health conference to seek solutions to the health care crisis in rural, remote and northern communities.
- More than 400 delegates and presenters worked together to suggest what action can be taken to improve health care in rural areas.
- The Northern Development Commission contributed to this regional event.

Forestry Continuing Studies Network (FCSN) • Branch Office Feasibility Study

- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding for a feasibility study to establish a branch office in Prince George.
- FCSN's primary function is to provide continuing education opportunities in natural resource management. Their purpose is also to identify potential employment for professional foresters.

transportation and technology

Northwest Corridor Development Corporation • Annual Conference

- The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting took place in October 2000.
- The conference emphasized northern rail transportation and the challenges and opportunities provided in goods movement, passenger carriage and tourism.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding of this event, "Tackling Northern Realities."

Northwest B.C. Business Technology Forum

- The Terrace Economic Development Authority in response to a request from the area's business community conducted an e-commerce seminar in Terrace, November 2, 2000. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Northern Development Commission.
- The program provided information on on-line business sales and promoted the idea of offering this option to customers in the region as well as any other potential purchaser that would access the site.
- The seminar was very successful with more than 70 participants who came away with a much better understanding of how and how not to become involved in e-commerce business.

Feasibility Study • Container Handling Facility

- The Prince Rupert Port Authority, the City of Prince Rupert, CN Rail and the Northern Development Commission partnered in a study to analyze the potential of the container handling facility at the port.
- The study clearly indicates that container handling is indeed a viable option for the port and would likely lead to a an increase in quantity and diversity of goods through the North Coast facility.
- The port authority is now assessing costs and other issues related to the development of this project.

Willow Cale Road

- Conditions on the Willow Cale road in Prince George had been deteriorating due to large growth in traffic and multiple uses.
- The Northern Development Commissioner successfully facilitated a process whereby stakeholders and provincial government agencies reached agreement on paving the road to improve safety and environmental conditions.

tourism development and marketing

Tourism Potential in the Cheslatta Watershed

- The Cheslatta Watershed includes the system of rivers and lakes between the Skins Lake Spillway and the confluence with the Nechako River.
- The Northern Development Commission co-funded a study of the potential economic value of outdoor recreation tourism in the Cheslatta area.

Tourism Rendezvous

- Tourism Rendezvous provided a forum for industry partners to learn about current activities, to network and to gain practical knowledge that will contribute to tourism development in the region.
- Workshops focused on topics such as tourism trends, marketing, packaging product, as well as industry updates from Tourism B.C.
- The conference was held in conjunction with the Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association annual general meeting and Tourism B.C.'s road show and was co-sponsored by the Northern Development Commission.

Feasibility Study in Opportunities in Outdoor Recreation Education

- The District of Kitimat received assistance from the Northern Development Commission to prepare a study of a possible outdoor recreation program through a senior academic institution similar to the one being offered by the University of Calgary.
- The concept is to create a program geared to coastal conditions and opportunities. This study is being completed and is expected to form the basis of a proposal by the community to create a coastal recreational education program in Kitimat.

Mouse Mountain Trails

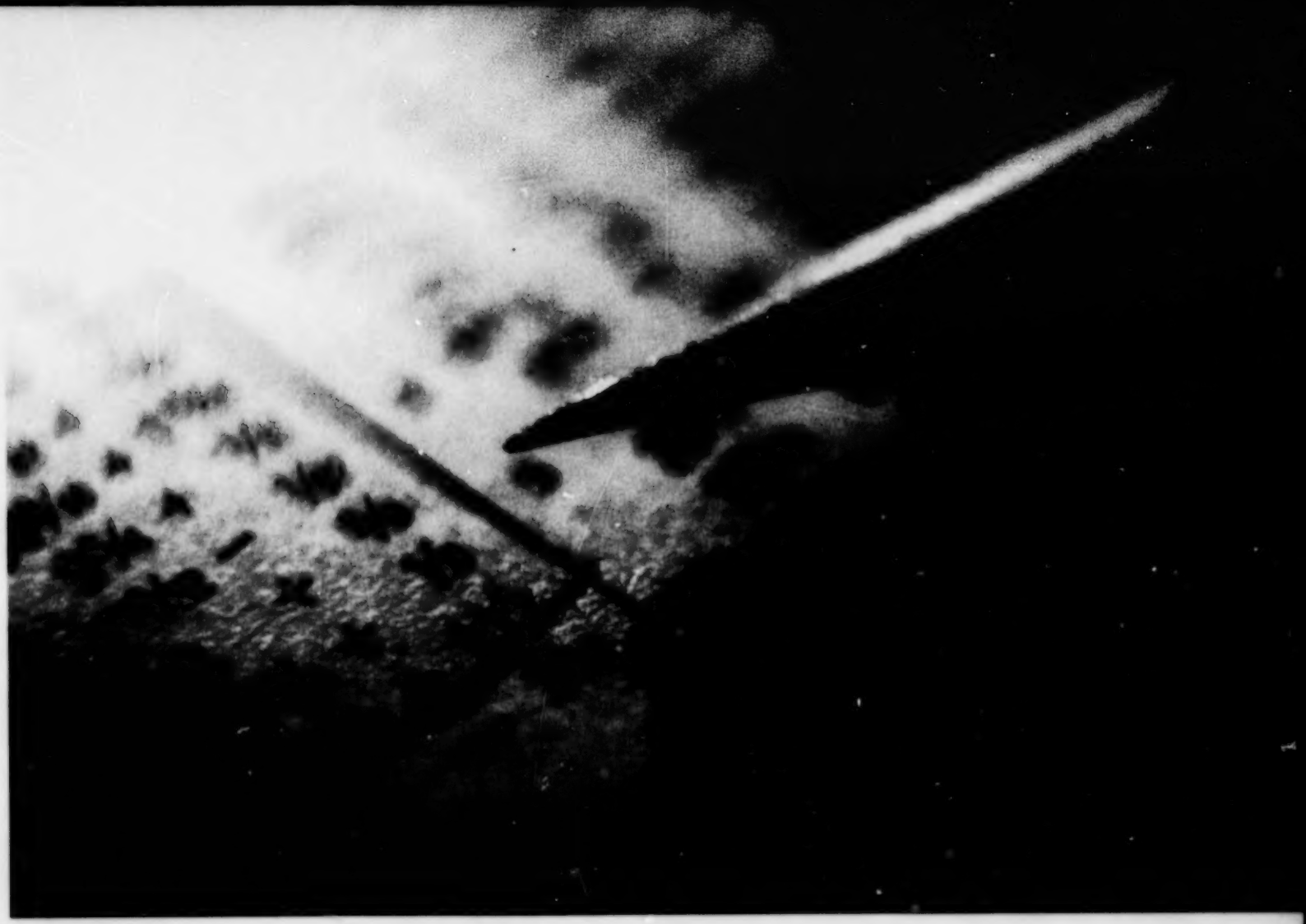
- The Northern Development Commission supported Fraser Lake's plan to build tourism infrastructure for hiking and cross-country skiing through the development of the Mouse Mountain trail project.
- Improvements have also been made to White Swan Park. The ultimate goal is to establish an interpretive centre located on the water front to promote environmental projects and awareness of conservation.

Made-in-the-North Tourism Solutions Conference

- The Northern Development Commission assisted with the funding for the first tourism conference held in the Hazelton area.
- Delegates attended from the entire region and there was significant representation from both First Nations and non-native communities in the area.
- As a result of the conference an agreement was reached to create a tourism group that would continue to explore options for the area and seek opportunities to develop a tourism-based industry in the area.

McBride Train Station

- Capitalizing on McBride's historic building and strategic location, the local economic development commission saw good potential for creating revenue and increasing tourist traffic in the village.
- In the first stage, the proponents will establish a display centre for local arts and crafts together with an information centre to serve tourists. The second phase involves completing a business and marketing centre feasibility study. The third phase involves a program incorporating business analysis and planning, project implementation and management training.
- The Northern Development Commission supported this project by funding the market survey required to get the project underway.



finances

financial record

Statement of Expenditure	2000-01	1999-00
Budget	**$ 1,987,000**	**$ 1,980,000**
Actual Expenditures		
Salaries/Benefits	$ 546,523	$ 564,734
Operating Costs	$ 357,347	$ 370,002
Grants	$ 114,200	$ 146,610
Contributions	$ 348,333	$ 156,637
Contracts	$ 265,451	$ 194,290
Other	$ --	$ 477
Capital Assets	$ 25,531	$ 15,874
Total	**$ 1,857,385**	**$ 1,448,824**

Note: Numbers are for fiscal years from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2001.

grants

Recipient	Project
BC Hydro	Houston Co-generation Feasibility Study Project
Cariboo Economic Action Forum	Cariboo Economic Action Forum
City of Fort St. John	Oil and Gas Week
City of Prince Rupert	Mayor and Council's Business Development Summit
Coastal Communities Network	2000 CCN Conference
Coastal Communities Network	2001 CCN Conference
District of Tumbler Ridge	Minerals North Conference
Fraser Basin Council	Tourism potential in the Cheslatta Watershed
Fraser Basin Council	Rural Communities, Rural Vision Conference
Simon Fraser University	Exploring the Future of Offshore Oil and Gas Development in B.C. • Workshop Proceedings
National Health Summit 00/01	National Health Summit 2001
Nechako Watershed Council	Feasibility study on generating hydro-electricity at Kenney Dam
Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association	2000 Tourism Rendezvous
Northern Wood Forum	2000 Northern Wood Forum
Touch Wood Northern Forum	Touch Wood 2001
Northwest Corridor Development Corporation	NCDC Annual Conference
Peace River Regional District	Agriculture/Wildlife Symposium
Pinkut Lake Development	Northern Economic Development Conference
Seafood Development Office	Northern Quality Seafood Expo 2000 Conference
Terrace Economic Development Authority	Northwest B.C. Business Technology Forum
The Kiwanis Enterprise Centre	Branding the Peace Conference
The Maritime Awards Society of Canada	Offshore Hydrocarbon Development Workshop
University of Northern B.C.	RETAIN 2000 International Conference
Upper Skeena Development Centre	Made-in-the-North Tourism Solutions Conference
Upper Skeena Development Centre	Sustainable Agriculture Symposium
Village of Fraser Lake	Mouse Mountain Trail

contribution agreements

Recipient	Project
Fort Nelson Regional Economic Task Force	Strategy to market goods in the region
Gingolx Village Government	Study to develop the harbour front area of the village
Takla Development Corporation	Developing application for timber sale licence
Saik'uz Legacy Homes	Marketing Assistance at Portland Oregon Log Home & Timber Frame Expo
Prince George Region Development Corporation	Market analysis study
Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association	Market analysis of the downtown area in Prince George
Nadleh Whut'en Indian Band	Business plan
McBride & Area Economic Development Commission	McBride Train Station
Turtle Island Development Corporation Limited	Inventory of services, facilities and skills available for development in Burns Lake area
Prince Rupert Economic Development Commission	Study to redevelop Ridley Island
Takla Development Corporation	Business plan for year-round employment
District of Chetwynd	Economic development strategic plan
Northern Society of Oilfield Contractors	Marketing strategy
Atlin Brewery Bay Marina Association	Feasibility study of Brewery Bay
Taku River Tlingit First Nations	Study into potential for bottled water plant
Prince George Film Commission	Northern B.C. film guide
Forestry Continuing Studies Network	Feasibility study for establishing a branch office in Prince George
University of Northern British Columbia	Oil and gas repository
Northern Lights College	Economic development strategy with the communities of Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek, Iskut and surrounding area
Masset Economic Development Commission	Feasibility study - developing a wood waste-fired electrical energy plant
Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District	FOODEX 2001
The Village of Telkwa	Community Business Development Plan
Immigrant & Multicultural Services Society	Feasibility study for international bakery
City of Quesnel	Redevelopment of City's website
District of Kitimat	Feasibility study - outdoor recreation education opportunities
Prince Rupert Port Authority	Feasibility study - container handling facility
City of Prince George	Conducting a community energy system feasibility study
North Peace Economic Development Commission	Extensive study on industry competitiveness

contracts

Company	Project
KPMG	Joint-venture Seminars
Denis & Muntener Advertising	Website updates
Andy Beesley & Associates	Strategic Planning Session
Sanlaing Communications	Oil and Gas Moratorium Consultations
Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture	Tourism Opportunity Studies
Ministry of Energy and Mines	Tumbler Ridge Peat Study
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Community Kitchen Template
National Speakers Bureau (Frank Ogden)	Northern Development Commission Spring Forum
ADT Security	Security Alarm in office

conferences

Participation in Regional, Provincial, National & International Conferences

April 6-7, 2000	Northern Forest Products Association, 60th Annual Convention, Prince George, B.C.
April 27-29, 2000	North Central Municipal Association, Annual Convention, Dawson Creek, B.C.
April 27 - 29, 2000	Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference, Bellingham, Washington
May 4-6, 2000	Touch Wood 2000 Northern Wood Forum, Vanderhoof, B.C.
May 5-7, 2000	Conference of Coast Communities, Richmond, B.C.
May 10-11, 2000	Mining Week 2000, Vancouver, B.C.
May 12-14, 2000	Provincial Community Development Event: Working & Learning Together, Vancouver, B.C.
May 16-18, 2000	Minerals North Conference, Tumbler Ridge, B.C.
May 24-27, 2000	Oil & Gas Week 2000, Fort St. John, B.C.
May 25-27, 2000	Yellowhead Highway Association 54th Annual Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 1-2, 2000	Agroforestry...Forestry for the Future Conference, Burns Lake, B.C.
June 23-24, 2000	Cariboo Economic Action Forum's 7th Annual Stakeholders Conference, Quesnel, B.C.
September 14-16, 2000	Peace Wood Works 2000 Northern Wood Forum, Dawson Creek, B.C.
September 18-19, 2000	Western Economic Development Ministers Conference, Yellowknife, NWT
September 26-28, 2000	Ministers Responsible for Northern Development Conference, Goose Bay, Labrador
September 27, 2000	Masset Information Forum, Masset, B.C.
Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2000	Stikine Community Development Conference, Dease Lake, B.C.
Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2000	Tone Wood Conference, Island Mountain Arts, Wells, B.C.
October 4-6, 2000	Northwest Corridor Development Corporation • Tackling Northern Realities Conference & AGM, Grande Prairie, Alberta
October 4-6, 2000	Northern Agricultural Symposium, Prince George, B.C.
October 23-27, 2000	U.B.C.M. Convention, Victoria, B.C.
Nov. 24-25, 2000	State of the Fraser Basin Conference 2000, Richmond, B.C.
Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2000	Northern Ministers Meeting, Toronto, Ontario
Dec. 6 - 9, 2000	Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ottawa, Ontario
January 18-20, 2001	National Health Summit 2001, Prince George, B.C.
January 25-26, 2001	B.C. Economic Development Working Group, Info Sharing Conference 2001, Vancouver, B.C.
January 30-Feb. 2, 2001	Winter Cities 2001 International Conference, Quebec City, Quebec
March 7-9, 2001	Raising the BAR, Vancouver, B.C.
March 12-16, 2001	FOODEX 2001, Tokyo, Japan
March 16-18, 2001	9th Annual Conference of Coastal Communities, Richmond, B.C.
March 27-30, 2001	National Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Development Indicators, Ottawa, Ontario

contact details

Office Address

Suite 307
299 Victoria Street, Prince George
British Columbia V2L 5B8

Telephone Numbers

Main Office: (250) 565-6246
Toll Free: 1-888-95-NORTH (66784)

Facsimile: (250) 565-6357

Website

www.ndc.gov.bc.ca